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Letter dated 12 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Acting on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform the Security Council that the accusations of the Democratic Republic of the Congo contained in the letters dated 1 and 8 July 2002 are false and far from the truth. For instance, the town of Pweto was left by the Rwandese defence forces a long time ago, when they withdrew 200 kilometres from the front line, in conformity with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. When that withdrawal took place, the town of Pweto remained in the hands of the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD)-Goma and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Regarding the fighting in the eastern Congo, does the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations ignore the fact that in May 2001, the former Rwandan Armed Forces (ex-FAR)/Interahamwe militia launched an attack on Rwanda in the provinces of Ruhengeri and Gisenyi, once again supported by the Kinshasa Government? The offensive was defeated and the genocidaires retreated into the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Those negative forces have been issued Congolese identity cards and integrated into the Congolese Armed Forces (FAC). As if that were not enough, Rwandan Liberation Army (ALIR) activities have continued in June and July 2002 in South Kivu, where three ALIR brigades are operating in areas of Lulingu, Lilembwe, Ninembwe and Lulimba. Two brigades are on the move from Katanga and Kasai, heading towards South Kivu. Movements across Lake Tanganyika as well as aerial drops by ALIR and FAC continue. This is in violation of the Ceasefire Agreement by the Kinshasa Government.

The world should know that Patrick Masunzu, self-appointed Commandant of Interahamwe militia forces in the highlands of Minembwe, is an ex-soldier of RCD-Goma who escaped custody after he had been apprehended for his role in the killing of innocent civilians in Makobora in 2000. He gets full support from the Kabila Government. It seems the Kinshasa regime is happy with criminals from all walks of life (see the annexed news release, issued by the Government of Rwanda).

In North Kivu, an ALIR division is currently reorganizing in territory controlled by Mbusa Nyamwisi. In short, the ideology of genocide is still preached and implemented under the cover of Kinshasa regime. The world should be alert. My Government requests the Security Council to:

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(a) Demand that the Government of Kinshasa stop the movement of ALIR and FAC troops, as a way of respecting the ceasefire;

(b) Condemn the genocidaires of ALIR and other terrorist groups operating under the protection of the Government of Joseph Kabila;

(c) Alert the international community to the genocidal spirit prevailing in the Great Lakes region;

(d) Ensure that the Lusaka Peace Agreement is implemented as a whole.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 12 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

News release

Ever since the Lusaka Agreement was signed July 1999, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has carried on as if the agreement is not worth the paper it is written on.

The DRC Government has launched several offensives during the last three years, in utter disregard and blatant violation of the Lusaka Agreement. This has been characterized by violations along the ceasefire line, involving attacks on Pweto and Moliro as well as the war in the Kivus.

The violation of the Lusaka Agreement reached a peak when the Kabila regime armed and unleashed Interahamwe militia and ex-FAR, under a known terrorist organization, ALIR I, to launch an attack on Rwanda, in May 2001. This offensive was neutralized by the Rwandan Defence Forces with the support of the local population.

For the last two months, the Kinshasa regime has escalated the attacks and violations, by arming and supporting ALIR units which have launched an offensive in areas of South Kivu. Presently, fighting is involving three ALIR brigades in the sectors of Minembwe, Kilembwe and Rulimba, with at least three more brigades on the move to reinforce the Rwandan militia outfit.

These attacks are coordinated by the Kinshasa regime and Interahamwe and ex-FAR militia, who have secured the cooperation of an RCD renegade and fugitive soldier, Patrick Masunzu. Masunzu, originally with the RCD, escaped custody after he had been apprehended for his role in the Makobora killings in 2000.

At the same time, ALIR's First Division which has been fighting Rwandan forces in North Kivu, has now escaped into the territory under Mbusa Nyamwisi, where it has been launching attacks in Rucuro, with supplies and support from Kinshasa.

While the Government of Rwanda wishes to reiterate its position that the Lusaka Agreement is the only viable framework for a sustainable solution to the conflict in the DRC, the Government wishes to call upon the international community to prevail on the Government in Kinshasa to put an end to these violations.

Done at Kigali
11 July 2002